It is respectfully submitted that claims 25-33 are in condition for allowance and such action is hereby solicited.

If the Examiner believes there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone or personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-18 are canceled.

Claims 25-33 are added as new claims.

25. A method of treating or preventing pruritis in a mammal in need of said prevention or treatment, said method comprising administering to said mammal a kappa opiate receptor agonist, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, that is substantially devoid of central nervous system effects, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. The method of claim 25 in which said kappa opioid receptor agonist exhibits little, if any, potential for producing side effects associated with centrally acting kappa opiate receptor agonists.

27. The method of claim 25 in which said administration is topical.

28. The method of claim 25 in which said administration is systemic.

29. The method of claim 25 in which said administration is parenteral.

30. The method of claim 25 in which said administration is rectal.

31. The method of claim 25 in which said agonist is administered in an amount between about 0.05 mg and 500 mg.

32. The method of claim 31 in which said agonist is administered in an amount between about 1 mg and 200 mg.

33. A composition comprising a kappa opiate receptor agonist, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, that is substantially devoid of central nervous system effects, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.